

# DISC Village Inc. 03-06-03 A10:57 111

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Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
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March 5, 2003

Mr. Tony Grippa, Chairman of the Board  
Board of County Commissioners  
Leon County Courthouse  
301 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Grippa,

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the following request. Due to some communication errors, we inadvertently did not submit a funding request for the current fiscal year (02/03). In the previous year, we were funded \$75,000 through the Leon County Sheriff's office and not required to submit a formal request for funds. We were mistakenly under the assumption that the same processes were in place this year. Therefore, we would like to request a mid-term appropriation of \$75,000 to fund the salaries of three of eight correctional officers.

## The JAC is a Vital Community Resource

The Leon County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), serving a multi-county area, is the most comprehensive and sophisticated JAC in the state of Florida. It represents six years of interagency planning, coalition building and collaboration and is regarded as a national model for coordinated community responsiveness to juvenile delinquency. It features electronic linkages with FCIC/NCIC and FDLE, the Leon County Schools data system and the county clerk's office. The related Juvenile Drug Court, Civil Citation and Truancy programs provide integrated prevention and diversion services in addition to the JAC booking and case management components. The JAC enhances the community by:

- Establishing a single, consolidated point of entry into the local juvenile justice system
- Increasing the percentage of cases diverted from judicial handling
- Creating a coordinated infrastructure for collaborative community networks
- Leveraging resources with a partnership between local and state funding sources.
- Intervening at the earliest sign of trouble for at-risk youth
- Streamlining the booking process and returning law enforcement officers to the street more quickly
- Offering immediate and comprehensive assessment to determine both risk to public safety and unmet needs of youth and their families
- Initiating case management services at the point of arrest
- Reducing the critical gap in time between arrest and case disposition
- Providing recommendations to the court that ensure appropriate placement and sanctions
- Analyzing data to assist the state in developing a sophisticated classification system that maximizes outcomes.

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It should also be pointed out that as a result of our collaborative efforts that Leon County's record in reducing juvenile crime is nothing short of remarkable! Since 1997, Leon County has had a 39% reduction in referrals to the JAC - 10 times the state total of 3% during the same time period. (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, "Balancing Toughness With Love".)

#### History and Organizational Structure of the JAC

The Florida Legislature enacted JAC's (39.0471 F.S.) in 1994, to enable communities to better coordinate and address the multiple service needs of delinquent juveniles and their families. The Leon County JAC is comprised of a partnership of eleven agency partners. The JAC's booking and receiving unit operates 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year. It is located at 3333 West Pensacola Street, Suite 400, in Tallahassee, Florida. DISC Village, Inc. is the administrative entity of the JAC who employees certified corrections officers to operate the JAC's booking and receiving unit. Operations are governed by the JAC Steering Committee, which is comprised of representatives from agency partners.

#### Operations Budget (Correctional Officers)

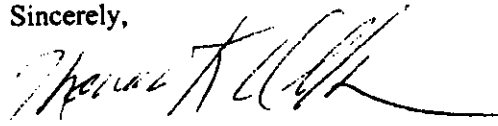
	Prior Year	Current Year
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000
City of Tallahassee	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Leon County Sheriff's Department	\$ 75,000	\$ 0
Total	\$213,000	\$138,000
 Total Costs for Eight Officers	 \$220,000	 \$225,000

#### Summary

The correctional officers are a vital aspect of the JAC and it is extremely important that we receive additional funding. Thank you for your consideration of this years funding. We would also like to submit a request for next year so that we will be able to continue to provide this vital resource to the community.

You and your fellow commissioners are cordially invited to visit the JAC, where you can see first-hand the good work we are performing and the positive impact on our community.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Olk  
C.E.O.

cc: Parwez Alam  
Allen Rosenwig